HTTYD: Cousins

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Summary: A crossover story between HTTYD and Brave where Hiccup meet Merida. Join Hiccup and Merida in a brand new adventure. Warning: This story may contain incest... If intermarriage between cousins during olden times is all right... Can someone please assure me... Anyway, enjoy! :) All characters Cressida Cowell & Disney

1. Royal Cousins

Cousins Part 1

'You got everything you need son?' Stoick the Vast asked as Hiccup Haddock Horrendous III loaded Toothless', his best friend, saddles with provisions that could last for weeks.

Hiccup secured the last bag. 'Let see... Fish... Check! Water... Check! Medical herbs... Check! Yup! I'm pretty much done with everything.'

'Wait lad!' Gobber the Belch said, suddenly jumping forward on his stump: With a few sack clothes in his iron hook. 'You'll need these to collect the Mountain Ash.'

'Thanks Gobber.' Hiccup placed the sack clothes in one of his saddle pockets. 'What does Gothi intend to do with these herbs?'

Gobber just shrugged. 'Probably some Viking's rituals or her usual nasty concoctions, she didn't explain.'

'Whatever it is for', Stoick cut in. 'It may prove to be an effective potion that may have powerful medical properties. If Gothi says it's important, then you must find those herbs at all cost.'

'Got it.' Hiccup assured as Toothless swing his tail in impatience. 'You said it's near Snake's Eyes Isle?'

'Aye.' Gobber confirmed. 'Just fly on East and you will reach there in a day or two.'

'Hiccup!' Hiccup looked up as a blonde girl ran towards him, carrying a bag.

'What's up, Astrid?' Hiccup asked.

'Here', Astrid panted as she handed him the bag. Hiccup opened the bag and found bread, smoked beef and dried fruits in it. 'Extra provisions. A change to the usual fish.'

Hiccup smiled gratefully as he tied the bag to Toothless' saddle, receiving a reptilian grunt for the extra weight tied to Toothless. 'Thanks Astrid, this sure to fill us up. Will you be okay on taking over the academy while me and Toothless are gone?'

For answer, Astrid punched Hiccup on the arm. 'Why bother asking that question? You know Stormfly and I can take care of the academy. You and Toothless just get those herbs and come home safely.'

Hiccup rubbed his arm ruefully and nodded. He hugged his dad before getting on Toothless. Waving his goodbye, Toothless spread his wings and took to the sky. Toothless flew higher until he and Hiccup disappeared into the clouds.

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Toothless and Hiccup had been flying for a day, only resting to eat and sleep on whatever shelter they can land on. There were many-deserted island in the north region so Hiccup and Toothless had no fears of enemies as they slept through the night. After crossing the massive sea, Hiccup and Toothless finally saw land. The land they encountered was lush with thick forests and high mountains. As they ventured more inland, they spotted a small lake.

'There Toothless!' Hiccup pointed. 'Let's rest there for a while.'

Toothless growled in agreement and closed his wings as he dived towards the ground. At the last minute, he opened his wings just as they were about to hit the tallest tree and hovered in the air. Just before they could lower to the ground, an arrow shot from the woods: in which Toothless dodged it at the last second. Toothless swerved to his right almost throwing Hiccup off him as another arrow fly towards them. This time it grazed the left side of Toothless. Toothless roared in pain as he fell towards the lake. Hiccup had no choice but to hold to Toothless and brace for impact. They hit the lake with a tremendous splash. The lake was not that deep so both Hiccup and Toothless managed to get out of the water unharmed.

'You okay bud?'

Toothless gave a friendly growl. Before they could do anything else, somebody was in front of them with a drawn bow and an arrow notched to it. Their attacker wore green dress and soft brown shoes. Besides the bow in her hands, there was a sword buckled around her waist.

'Don't try anything funny!' she ordered. 'I have my eyes on you and

what manner of creature are you?'

Toothless growled at the girl but Hiccup stopped him. He raised his hands in surrender. 'We're just harmless travellers. My name is Hiccup and this is Toothless, my flying dog.'

Toothless gave a puzzled growl while the girl raised an eyebrow. 'Of all the tall tales I heard, yours' the tallest!'

'Really? Because I always thought that I'm not the tallest.' he tried to joke.

'Enough!' the girl said, aiming her bow at Hiccup. 'The fact that you're cute and funny is the reason you're still alive. Plus, I didn't want to enrage... Your dog!' Toothless growled at her. 'But I had enough of you two! I think I will let by father decide! On your dog and walk slowly!
>I will be behind you the entire time and if I see any signs of escape, I shoot. Got it?'<p>

Hiccup nodded but said, 'Can I at least check Toothless is okay? That arrow of yours may have hurt him.'

The girl hesitated before nodding. 'Go ahead.'

Hiccup nodded his thanks and knelt to where the arrow struck Toothless. It was only a graze and the wound was almost healed. To make sure Toothless did not catch any disease, Hiccup took out a flask from one of Toothless saddles and applied a healing balm to his wound. After rubbing for a few minutes, Hiccup stepped back and Toothless gave a growl of contentment. The girl, who was standing there the whole time, asked.

'Are you done?'

Hiccup nodded. 'Yes.' He got onto Toothless and nudged his knee. Toothless walked in front of the girl, dragging his tail. Hiccup looked over his shoulders at the girl. 'By the way, where are we?'

The girl stated at him with wide eyes. 'Are you daft or something? You're in Dunbroch.'

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Dunbroch. Hiccup thought. I heard that name before but from whom?

Hiccup and Toothless had been forced marched by the girl through the forest for hours until they reached a fortified city made from ancient stones and the strongest wood. The walls looked like it was 20 meters wide and 100 feet tall with watchtowers at every 50 meters. As they passed through the gates, the residents of the city who were following their daily routine, looked up in astonishment at the new arrival: a foreign boy with a metal prosthetic attached to his left limb while riding a winged reptile. They were not the only ones gaping, Hiccup and Toothless were looking around the city with amazement. They were used to their village that was built with what wood the island's forest had to offer and they relied on the natural landscapes like the mountains and the sea to keep the enemies at bay.

An entire population of people surrounded by a wall was new to them.

'Keep moving!' the girl barked as she drew her bow. Hiccup and Toothless obeyed and continued on until they reached a massive wooden door guarded by two guards who were wearing what looked like skirts. Hiccup managed to stop a giggle from escaping his mouth but Toothless sniggered loudly: earning glares from the guards.

'Open the gates!' the girl ordered.

The guards bowed slightly and threw the massive door opened. Hiccup and Toothless were herded into a massive throne room made from stones, clothed in red carpets and banners and decorated with weaponry and stuffed bears. At the end of the hall were four wooden but majestic thrones. On the biggest throne sat a big, buff man with long, ginger hair and beard. He wore green tunic with cape made of bear fur attached to it. He wore a great sword at his waist and, like Hiccup, had a wooden peg attached to his left leg. Sitting beside him in a slightly smaller throne was a woman with long, raven brown hair with streak of white in the middle. She wore a green regal gown and a gold crown on her head. Unlike the man next to her, she carried a nobler aura than him. On the woman's right was a throne shaped like a box with three boys sitting on it. They looked alike in every aspect and wore exactly the same clothes. On the man's left was a throne smaller than the man's and the woman's. To the surprise or Hiccup and Toothless, the girl walked past them and hugged the man and woman.

'Mom, dad! I'm home!'

The girl's father smiled and hugged her back. 'How was your ride through the forest lass?'

'It was fantastic dad! Angus was fast as the wind and scored another set.'

'Sometimes I wish you spent more times inside the castle then outside.' the girl's mother commented.

'Now Elinor dear', the man patted on his wife's shoulders. 'You once had a taste of Merida's experience and you accepted her choice.'

Elinor smiled. 'I'm only jesting, Fergus.' Then she frowned at her daughter. 'Who did you bring home with you?'

While Merida was greeting her family, both Hiccup and Toothless were gaping at her. A princess captured them!

Now you don't see that everyday. Toothless' looks told Hiccup.

Tell me about it! Hiccup's looks replied.

'I caught this boy and his... Flying dog trespassing on our territory so I brought them here for you to judge them.' Merida replied.

Fergus frowned and stood at his imposing height. Hiccup, although used to giants, took a step back. Fergus was the size of his father!

Buffer though. Fergus walked around Hiccup and Toothless, studying them, with his red, bushy brows raised. He stopped himself in front of them and rumbled. 'This is no dog! This is a dragon! I thought I never live to see this day! And there is something familiar about this lad!' He leaned closer towards Hiccup. 'Do you know who Stoick the Vast, boy?'

Hiccup stared back in surprise. 'He's my dad. Why? Do you know...'

Before Hiccup could finish his sentence, Fergus scooped him in a massive bear hug: threatening to crush his ribcage and cutting his air short.

'Know him?' Fergus cried joyously. 'He's my cousin twice removed! You must be my nephew, Hiccup! The letters from your father told me so much about you!'

Now Hiccup remembered where he heard Dunbroch before. 'Dad told me about Dunbroch and the Bear King!'

Fergus chuckled. 'No need for titles Hiccup. Just call me uncle Fergus.' He then turned to his wife and children. 'Elinor, Merida, boys! Come say hello to your cousin Hiccup!'

As Elinor and the triplets came forward to greet Hiccup, only Merida hovered back behind them: slightly embarrassed and awkward. Elinor held up her hands and shook hands with Hiccup. 'It's a pleasure to finally meet the nephew that Fergus keep talking about. What brings you here to Dunbroch?'

'Toothless and I were looking for a herb called Mountain Ash on Snake Eyes Isle.' Hiccup answered. 'We were about to take a night somewhere in the forest when', Hiccup gave the nervous Merida a quick glance before continuing. 'I made a mistake in judging the timing and we accidentally hit a tree. Toothless just glazed his leg and ... Ow!'

Toothless hit Hiccup slightly with his tail. Hey! You're not the one shot at! Toothless' face told him.

Just bear with it. Hiccup silently told him back. He saw Merida breathe a sigh of relief and eyed him gratefully and curiously. Fergus and Elinor did not notice the exchange and Fergus asked:

'Are you sure both of you are unharmed?'

Hiccup nodded. 'It just that Toothless won't be able to fly for a few days with that leg.' Then he quickly added. 'If Merida hadn't found us, we probably would have a tougher time to recuperate.'

Fergus nodded, satisfied, and turned to grin at his daughter. 'It was a good thing that she always like to roam the forest.'

Merida could only nod and said humbly, 'If you're looking for Mountain Ash, there are some growing on top of the Fire Falls.'

'The Fire Falls?' Hiccup asked, even Toothless cocked his head in curiosity.

Fergus smiled at Hiccup. 'Legends says that only the legendary kings and queens can drink from the waters. Merida here prove to be an exception.'

It was Hiccup's turn to eyed Merida with interest. This girl, no, his cousin was really made out of something. He focused his attention back to Fergus, 'Can Merida take me to this fall?'

Fergus laughed and slapped Hiccup's back, almost sending him stumbling. 'What's the hurry lad? You and Toothless must be exhausted from your journey and accident. Why not rest for the night and tomorrow you can go for that herb.'

'Yes Hiccup.' Elinor agreed. 'You're welcome to stay here as long as you like. Merida', she turned to her daughter. 'Show Hiccup and Toothless to one of our guest rooms and make him feel welcome. Ask Maddie to bring him a bathing tub and a brush and some clean clothes.'

'Yes mom.' Merida said.

Elinor nodded and smiled at Hiccup. 'Once you're freshen up, join us for dinner. You must regale us with tales of Berk.'

'Especially about your Dragon Academy and how you defeat Alvin the Treacherous and Dagur the Deranged.' Fergus grinned.

'Please dear', Elinor rolled her eyes. 'The triplets have enough stories of gore and blood, especially from all the stories of Mor'du.'

'But this is different.' Fergus protested. 'These are tales of fire-breathing dragons and how their cousin, Hiccup, tamed them!' He smiled at the triplets. 'What do you say boys?'

The triplets cheered and Fergus' grin widened. He then turned to Hiccup. 'Looks like you're going to be the story teller tonight, Hiccup.'

Hiccup was stunned for a moment before he awkwardly smiled, 'I... I be honored, uncle Fergus and aunt Elinor.'

Fergus nodded, satisfied, and allowed Merida to lead Hiccup and Toothless deeper into the castle. Hiccup followed Merida while Toothless followed behind, dragging his scaly tail over the cold, marble steps. As they walked through the hallways, Hiccup took in everything he will never see in Berk. Tapestries of royal families or landscapes that surrounded Dunbroch, ancient chests made from wood from rare and old trees, suits of armor with pikes and the occasional stuffed bears. A home befitting a king of bears.

Finally they reached a door on one of the top floors but before Merida opener it, she looked around to make sure no one else was in hearing range before whispering to Hiccup, 'Thanks for not telling my parents about me shooting you and sorry about that. Sometimes I do things without thinking.'

'It's all right.' Hiccup said immediately. 'You must have thought that we must've been enemies spies or something.'

'Actually', Merida blushed. 'I thought you were a giant eagle.'

Hiccup raised an eyebrow. 'Okay... Well. No harm done.' He felt a nudge behind him and corrected himself. 'Besides, that arrow grazed Toothless.'

Merida knelt down to Toothless' level. Toothless growled at her.

'Sorry about shooting at you and mistaking you for an eagle too, Toothless.' Merida apologized sincerely. 'I hope we can be friends.'

Toothless snorted at her and Hiccup placed a hand on his head. 'Be nice.'

Toothless gave a dragon-like shrug and Merida stood up, a bit crestfallen. Merida just smiled however and opened the door to the guest room. She led Hiccup and Toothless into the room. The room was furnished with a soft bed supported by a fine wood frame, a cupboard probably made from the same materials as the bed, a wooden chest and a desk with a mirror. A window covered in a wooden frame was now opened, showing a descending sunset in the horizon. On the walls were tapestries and decorative shields while the floor was covered with a bear skin rug.

'Well, what do you think of Dunbroch's hospitality?' she inquired, grinning.

'Wow.' Hiccup looked around the room in amazement. 'I have to admit that we don't get all this on Berk. What do you think bud?'

For answer, Toothless sniffed at the bearskin rug, circled around it before curling into a ball: giving a reptilian purr. Hiccup smiled back at Merida.

'He's satisfied.'

'I'm glad he is.' Merida smiled back. 'Just now in the forest, why did you call him a dog?'

Hiccup shrugged. 'Just being sarcastic. I mean it should be obvious that this is a flying reptile and not a flying dog.'

Merida giggled while Toothless growled in his paws. 'You're funny, just like how your dad describe you in his letters. I heard so much from the great dragon rider.'

'Same here.' Hiccup replied back. 'He always spoke of a certain niece that is an excellent archer. He must have meant you.'

Merida smiled. 'I can't wait to hear about the Dragon Academy and all the battles you had. See you at dinner.'

She left Hiccup and Toothless in the room. Hiccup took a last look around the room before falling face-first into the bed. 'Quite an adventure, eh bud?'

Toothless grunted before having a quick nap.

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The next morning, Hiccup woke up as he heard the rooster making it morning cry. Hiccup moaned widely and rubbed the sand out of his eyes. He got out of bed and made his way to the water basin provided. He spent last night feasting with his relatives and telling tales of his training of dragons and the battles against Alvin the Treacherous and Dagur the Deranged. As he regaled with his interested hosts, Toothless was stuffing his face with fish and lamb. It was almost midnight until the triplets were satisfied with the tales and he was allowed to excuse himself from the table. In an instant, he was asleep just as he fell on the bed.

Hiccup dried his face with a towel and nudged Toothless with a foot. 'Come on buddy, time to wake up.'

Toothless gave him a sleepy growl and dug deeper into the rug.

'Hey, you're not the one telling the stories last night so you have no excuse.'

Toothless growled and rose from the rug. He yawned and stretched all his limbs. He stood up and licked his lips. Hiccup opened the door and let his friend go out first. They headed to the dining hall where the rest of the castle's guards and residents of Dunbroch were breakfasting on bread, cold ham and mild ale.

Hiccup took his seat and nodded his thanks as he was being served his breakfast along with a wooden plate of fish. Hiccup tossed the fish to Toothless who ate it in one gulp as he started with his own breakfast. He was washing the bread and ham with the ale, wincing slightly at the sweet then bitter taste, when a smiling Merida walked up towards him.

'Good morning Mr. Storyteller.' she greeted. 'Last night was a great success: the triplets preferred your story over dad's any day.'

Hiccup gave a small belch, not used to the ale. 'I hope Fergus doesn't feel outshine in tales regaling.'

Merida shrugged. 'Dad will pout and make a fuss about it but I'm sure he is in awe with your stories as much as the triplets.' Then she grinned. 'Come cousin, I thought we walk off breakfast with a run to the Fire Falls.'

Despite having a full stomach, Hiccup stood up and nodded. 'Sure, that be great.' he turned to Toothless. 'Ready for a run buddy?'

Toothless belched, agreeing with the run to the Fire Falls. Hiccup smiled and placed his hand on Toothless' head and told Merida, 'He says yes.'

'Wonderful.' Merida said and led them out of the dining hall and to the stable. Merida entered one of the stables and when she came out, a big, black horse followed her from behind.

'Angus, these are Hiccup and Toothless.' Merida introduced. 'Hiccup,

Toothless, this here's Angus.'

Like any dragons, Hiccup placed his hand between Angus head: just above the nostrils and below the eyes. 'Hi there.'

Angus neighed in greeting and gave a horse's version of a nod to Toothless who also approached him. Once the introduction was done, Merida jumped on Angus' back.

'How's Toothless' side doing?'

'Getting better.' Hiccup replies. 'Why?'

Merida smirked. 'Race ya!'

Before Hiccup could even respond, Merida kneed Angus' sides. Angus stood on his rear legs and galloped out of the city gates. Hiccup just stood there once they exited the city before jumping onto Toothless, hooking his metallic limb to the saddle.

'Come on bud!' Hiccup leaned closer to Toothless' head. 'We're not going to lose to a girl on a horse in a race are we?'

Toothless growled in agreement and sped towards the gate. Dunbroch's citizens, who were used with seeing their princess riding off into the woods alone, were quite surprised when a giant lizard with wings with a boy ran through them at lightning speed. Hiccup and Toothless were out of the city and into the forest within seconds: following a path that cut through the forest.

While running, Toothless sniffed the air and sped up: catching Merida and Angus' scent. Soon, they caught sight of Merida and Angus. Toothless' speed accelerated and they were running alongside with Angus: making Merida gave them a look of surprise.

'That was a bit unfair of you.' Hiccup told Merida through the wind. 'Taking off like that without giving us a warning. Also, you and Angus have the advantage of geography of this area!'

Merida just grinned. 'I wanted to see whether or not Toothless' speed is as fast as your dad says in his letter. Looks like Toothless matched his reputation. And the Fire Falls is the highest waterfall in the area so it is not hard to miss!'

Hiccup scanned through his memories after what Merida said about the Fire Falls. Before Toothless was shot down, he remembered seeing a massive waterfall in the color of red due to the reflections of the sun. Just in front of it was a tall rock pillar with what looks like greenery on top of it. Hiccup took out his compass from his pocket so he could tell which directions they were heading. Merida caught sight of it and looked intrigued.

'What is that device?'

'It's called a compass!' Hiccup answered back as he studied the compass. 'It tells you which directions is north and help with navigation. If my memory served me well, the Fire Falls should be around...' He trailed off and then found the directions he wanted. 'Toothless! That way!'

Toothless swerved to his right and galloped off, leaving Merida and Angus behind. Surprised and being outrun, Merida and Angus doubled their efforts until they were next to Hiccup and Toothless.

'Not fair! Now you're cheating!' Merida shouted.

Hiccup did not reply back but smirked as he and Toothless continue running. Infuriated, Merida nudges Angus in his side: making the horse jumped over Toothless. Hiccup looked over his shoulders just in time to see Angus making the jump. Hiccup lowered his head as Angus jumped over them. Hiccup could have sworn that one of Angus' hooves touched his hair. Angus landed with a heavy thud on the ground: taking the lead.

'Hey, you almost took my head off!' Hiccup shouted at Merida.

'But I didn't so stop your whining!'

'Is that how you want to play?' Hiccup muttered under his breath. He and Toothless sped fasted until they were overtaking Merida and Angus by a hair breath. At Hiccup's touch, Toothless unfolded his wings: his right wing blocking Merida's view. Merida gave a shriek and when Toothless folded his wings back, Merida a low branch heading toward her. Instinctually, Merida lowered her body backwards and the branch went past her.

Merida sat back up and shouted at Hiccup. 'You almost killed me back there!'

Hiccup laughed and Merida joined in, enjoying their race. Clutching her ribs and wiping a tear of mirth away and she suddenly pointed out. 'Look Hiccup, there's the Fire Falls up ahead!' a giant pillar of rock was fast approaching them. Behind the pillar was a waterfall, the one that Hiccup recalled when he and Toothless first arrived in Dunbroch. 'First one to reach that pillar wins!'

Hiccup nodded and both he and Merida urges their mounts faster. Toothless and Angus accelerated towards the pillar and as soon as they were near the pillar, they skidded towards the pillar. They skidded sideways and Hiccup and Merida hold their hands, their palms opened. Toothless and Angus stopped and they opened their eyes: both Hiccup and Merida touched the pillar at the same time.

'Wow!' Merida gasped as she and Hiccup let go of the pillar. 'I never thought to almost losing a race like that. Is Toothless really that fast?'

'Not really.' Hiccup admitted as he stepped down from Toothless. 'Everyday, the more we train, the more stronger and faster a dragon become.'

'That's so awesome! It must be fun being a dragon rider.'

Hiccup demurred before answering. 'Yeah it is. But it takes a lot of discipline and determination to bond with your dragons. It means knowing everything about them, to take care of them, to spend time together, teaching each other new moves and new things, feeding them and to treat them not as slaves but as friends.' Then he grimaced. 'Also, you have to live with their dirty habits like belching... Ouch!'

Toothless swatted Hiccup with his tail when Hiccup added about dragons' hygiene.

'Toothless!' Hiccup exclaimed as he rubbed his head. Toothless sniggered while Merida giggled along with him. Despite himself, Hiccup laughed along with them. After some time, Merida wiped a tear from her eyes and chortled.

'You're so funny, Hiccup!'

Hiccup grinned as he rubbed the back of his head. 'Glad someone appreciate my humor.'

Merida grinned. 'Race you to the top?'

Hiccup took one look at the top of the pillar and at his prosthetic leg. 'No way I'm beating you in this race. I have a better idea.' He went to Toothless' sides and unhooked his shield from the saddle. He raised his shield towards the top of the pillar and pulled on a trigger, firing a grappling hook. The grappling hook lodged between rocks that were on top of the pillar: securing it. Hiccup tested the strength of the grappling hook before turning to the amazed Merida.

'Grabbed onto something.'

Merida stopped gaping and hugged Hiccup from behind. Trying to hide his surprise, Hiccup merely asked, 'You have never seen a grappling hook before?'

Merida shook her head. 'I never seen grappling hook use in such a way.'

'Well, hang on!' Hiccup pulled another trigger and both he and Merida flew upwards towards the top at a tremendous speed: screaming away. They landed on their feet, facing the Fire Falls. It was Hiccup's turn to be amazed. The water were indeed fiery red: due to the sunlight. At their feet sticking out from two rocks was the Mountain Ash: the base in healthy green and ash grey in color.

'There it is.' Hiccup said as he gently plucked it from the rocks. He pulled out the sackcloth that Gobber gave him from his belt. He carefully put the herbs inside the sackcloth and secured it onto his belt. Hiccup stood up and admired the Fire Falls.

'It's beautiful...'

Merida nodded in agreement. 'Do you want to have a drink from the falls cousin?'

'You sure I can?' Hiccup asked. 'I thought only kings could only drink from it.'

Merida shrugged. 'I'm a princess and I drank from it. You being the son of a Viking's chieftain should qualify you to drink.'

Hiccup looked at the Fire Falls and walked closer towards it. He cupped his hands and placed it under the falls: collecting the water in his hands. He lifted his hands and put it to his mouth: drinking

the content. Surprisingly, it was just... Normal.

Merida looked closely at him. 'What do you think?'

Hiccup gave Merida a quizzical look. 'Am I suppose to be tasting something else besides normal water?'

Merida chortled. 'Of course not, silly! You're suppose to feel that you accomplished something after climbing to the top of that pillar and drinking from the highest waterfall in all of Dunbroch!'

'Huh!' Hiccup mused. 'I thought I be sprouting wings or something.'

'If that so then half the countryside would be swarming with flying men right now.' then she faced the horizon. 'This is one of my favorite spot.'

Hiccup turned to face Merida who was viewing the whole of Dunbroch and joined her. Just overlooking the forest and the lake was breathtaking enough with the castle in plain view. The breeze gently blow on him and even though it was chilly, it soothed him for some reason. The sun was welcoming both of them with it radiant rays.

'I can see why.' Hiccup commented. 'Do you come here a lot of times?'

Merida shrugged. 'So many times that I lost count.' She smiled. 'Want to come down now? I'll show you that ruin where I face off against Mor' Du.'

'That demon bear Fergus been talking about?' Hiccup's interest piqued. 'That's sound great. Toothless, let's...' he looked around for the dragon but was surprise that Toothless wasn't in sight. Hiccup was wondering where Toothless was when he heard Merida giggling behind him. She was starting to climb down.

'Silly, we went up with that contraption of yours and left poor Toothless and Angus down there. I meet you down.' Merida's head disappeared from Hiccup's sight as she started to descend.

Hiccup had placed his shield on the ground and face palmed himself for forgetting about it. He picked it up and pressed a trigger: the grappling hook sliding it out. He secured the hook into the rocks and hanged onto his shield. Then he jumped off the pillar and with the shield, he started his descend down.

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Merida was standing just above the river with her bow strung and fired three arrows consecutively into the moving water, impaling three salmons into the riverbed. She walked into the water and pulled out the twitching salmons along with the bows, tossing them at Hiccup who was sitting in front of a fire with Toothless: pulling the arrows from their scaly bodies. Hiccup tossed a salmon towards Toothless who snapped at it in one gulp while Hiccup impaled the other two salmons from the head all the way to the tail with two sharpened sticks: placing them just above the fire. Merida joined him and sat besides him, Hiccup giving her back the arrows she used and Merida drying them with a cloth. Angus were behind them, chewing grass.

'I never see anyone catching fish in such a way.' Hiccup commented. 'You do know there's something call fishing nets.'

Merida chortled. 'I do but I prefer this way. It gives me extra target practice and get lunch at the same time.'

'I do admit that's interesting.' Hiccup said as he gave her a cooked salmon.

'Thanks.' Merida said and took a bite on the salmon. Both of them ate their salmon slowly. Merida had finished half of the salmon when she broke the silence. 'So will you and Toothless be leaving soon?'

Hiccup nodded as he slowly chewed. 'As soon as Toothless get better, we will be leaving soon. We need to get the Mountain Ash back to Berk as soon as possible and I'm a bit worried about leaving the Dragon Academy for so long.'

Merida nodded slowly. 'Yeahâ€¦'

Hiccup noticed that there was a sorrowful note in Merida's voice but before he could ask her about it, Toothless looked up to the sky and growled. Frowning, Hiccup looked at the sky and Merida joined him: surprise on their faces. In the sky was something black with a head, tail and wings: blocking the sun and flying through the sky.

In disbelief, Hiccup saw what look like a dragon: roaring and flying across the sky.

2. A New Dragon Rider

HTTYD: Cousins Part 2

Merida quickly stood up and gasped. 'Oh Nessie! It's back!'

'What is it?' Hiccup asked as Toothless growled at the dragon.

Merida looked at the dragon as it flew pass them. 'People call it the Wryworm. Nobody knows where it originated from or why it's here. All we know it started attacking the city and the livestock four months ago.' Merida turned to Hiccup. 'Dad was about to write to your dad to request that you come to Dunbroch to help us with the Wryworm but then he decided against it. He wanted to handle problem himself but he's more comfortable dealing with bears than with dragons.'

'And now that I'm here.' Hiccup said. 'He will sooner or later tell me about it. I can't promise I can do anything about it but we will try.' Hiccup ran towards Toothless and jumped on his back. 'Up bud!' Toothless, however, gave a soft growl and showed Hiccup the wound on his side. 'All right.' Hiccup remembered. 'You're injured. Okay then, plan B.'

'What's plan B?' Merida asked as she mounted on Angus.

'We knocked it down from the air and into the ground.' Hiccup answered. 'But the most important thing is to lead it away from

Dunbroch.'

'Sounds like a plan to me.' Merida nodded and kneeing Angus' sides, Angus stood on its rear legs and galloped off: Hiccup and Toothless following behind them. They raced through the forest as Merida led them back to Dunbroch. Soon they saw the castle's gates and more. As they got closer, they could hear shouting and bells ringing: also the roaring of a reptile. Arrows flew towards the flying brown thing that breathes fire and would sweep down and come back up with a sheep in its claws: only for an arrow to knock the sheep back down.

Toothless skidded to a stop and Hiccup narrowed his eyes: studying the Wryworm. The Wryworm have a gaping mouth filled will razor sharp teeth and small eyes. Its body was slim and wriggly like a brown worm with a sharp tail and leathery reptilian wings. The creature opened its gaping maw and released a loud roar as warriors threw spears and fired arrows at it: the creature merely dodging the attacks.

'Come on you beastie!' Fergus roared, brandishing his claymore. 'Have at you!'

The Wryworm responded by releasing a flow of lava: sending warriors scattering everywhere to avoid the liquid fire. Fergus himself jumped out of the way: the Wryworm's fire melting down a stone.

'Dad!' Merida cried and worried about her father, she unslung her bow and nocking multiple arrows. She released a volley of arrows towards the Wryworm: causing no damage to it but attracting its attention. The Wryworm turned its attention away from Fergus and towards Merida. Hiccup then added his own attacks.

'Toothless, plasma blasts!'

Toothless opened his mouth and released three purple fireballs consecutively: hitting the Wryworm squarely on its chest. The Wryworm was sent backwards and roaring in anger, it's swooped down towards Toothless and Hiccup: away from Dunbroch. The creature opened its maw wider, as if wanting to consume them.

'Now what?' Merida asked as she slung back her longbow.

'This is the part where we make a run for it.' Hiccup replied.

Merida raised an eyebrow questionably. 'Shouldn't we make a stand against that thing?'

'If you want to get swallow up by that thing then be my guest.' Hiccup said as he and Toothless prepare to run. 'It be better if we head into the forest. That way, we can ambush it.'

Merida finally nodded and pulled on Angus' reins, urging her horse towards the forests. Angus neighed and together with Toothless, they rain into the heavy forest with the Wryworm just behind them. Toothless and Angus carried their riders deeper into the forest while the Wryworm roared and spat out molten rocks: creating small craters and launching rocks everywhere.

'Fascinating.' Hiccup said, ducking a flying rock. 'It's a boulder-class dragon. That's explain the rock like hide and molten

rocks.'

'Does it have a weakness?' Merida shouted as she rode next to him.

Before Hiccup could answer, the Wryworm screeched and swooped down just behind them: its mouth half buried in the ground. Shovelling the dirt, the Wryworm's speed accelerated: about to swallow them up.

'Sides!' Hiccup yelled. Toothless and Angus swerved to their sides while the Wryworm flew between them: flying upwards from the ground and back into the sky. Toothless and Angus skidded to a stop.

'Amazing.' Hiccup observed. 'The Wryworm eat up dirt to increased its speed.'

'That's interesting and all but how do we stop it?' Merida asked impatiently.

Hiccup quickly said. 'Merida, distract it while Toothless and I will try to overcome it.'

Merida nodded. 'All right then. Yah!'

She kneed Angus' sides and she galloped towards the Wryworm. Merida pulled out her bow and unleashed an arrow storm on the Wryworm: firing as soon as an arrow was nocked. The Wryworm roared and swooped towards Merida and Angus. Merida quickly galloped off while the Wryworm did the same thing: consuming the earth in other to catch up with Angus.

Hiccup patted Toothless on the head. 'Now bud.'

Toothless roared and like an arrow, he sprinted towards the Wryworm and Merida: soon catching up with them. Unhooking his metal leg from Toothless saddle, Hiccup balanced himself on top of Toothless' back: making sure he does not fall. When Toothless was just next to the Wryworm, Hiccup took a deep breath and launches himself from Toothless.

Hiccup hit chest first onto the Wryworm's back: grunting in pain and trying to get his breath back. The Wryworm, noticing Hiccup on its back, gave a roar of annoyance and forgetting Merida, flew into the air. Hiccup clung onto the Wryworm for his dear life as the dragon flew higher.

'Hiccup!' Merida cried as Angus skidded to a halt.

Toothless roared, worried about his friend as Hiccup got higher.

'Woaaaaaahhhhhhh!' Hiccup cried as the Wryworm tried to buck him off. Grimacing at the wind slamming into his face, Hiccup grabbed something that is sensitive to the Wryworm: a small black horn in between the eyes. Grasping it with both hands, Hiccup pushed it to the right: making the Wryworm swerved onto its right. The Wryworm and Hiccup fought for supremacy but Hiccup managed to bring both of them flying towards the ground. Before Hiccup could avert to another

direction, he and the Wryworm slammed into the earth: splashing mud everywhere. They have landed into a pit of mud.

Groaning, Hiccup lifted himself up and tried to wipe the mud out of his eyes. When he did, he found himself face-to-face with the Wryworm. Hiccup fell onto his bottom and prepared to defend himself what appeared to be an inevitable death but instead of attacking, the Wryworm just stood there. Hiccup lowered his hands, puzzled that a creature so aggressive earlier was not doing anything harmful to him.

Then the Wryworm then got closer to Hiccup: sniffing him. Then before Hiccup knew it, the Wryworm put its head on Hiccup's chest and under his chin: snuggling into him. Before Hiccup could do anything, Toothless, Merida and Angus came into view.

'Hiccup.' Merida said breathlessly. 'Are you all right?'

Then she stared at the Wryworm in front of Hiccup. Toothless growled and the Wryworm growled back, facing him with bared teeth. The two dragons were about to pounce on each other.

Hiccup finally understood the Wryworm's sudden friendly attitude towards him. 'Merida, Toothless, quick! Cover yourself in mud!'

Merida stared at Hiccup as if he was telling her he was a fairy. 'What?'

'Just do as I say, hurry!'

Merida and Toothless glanced at each other then nodding, they dived into the mud: covering themselves in mud. Angus, seeing them jumping into the mud pit, also jumped: creating a bigger splash than the other two. Once all of them were in the mud, they looked expectedly at the Wryworm. To their surprise, with the exception of Hiccup, the Wryworm stopped growling and moved closer to them: Merida and Toothless suddenly became wary.

To Merida's surprise, the Wryworm sniffed at her once and placed its head on her laps: giving her a reptilian purr. Toothless tilted his head, as confused as Merida. When the Wryworm was done snuggling next to Merida, it turned to Toothless and sniffed at him. Then the Wryworm gave Toothless a friendly growl and Toothless growled back: starting a friendly conversation between dragons.

Merida turned to Hiccup. 'Hiccup, do you mind explaining this?'

'Apparently the Wryworm loved to roll around in the mud.' Hiccup slowly said. 'So maybe it sees us as friends as we're coated in mud.'

Now the Wryworm snuggled next to Merida. 'That's amazing.' Merida said. 'But for how long?'

'Until the mud is washed away from us.' Hiccup replied. 'So now it's a good time to tame it.' Hiccup held out his hand towards the Wryworm. 'Hey there.'

The Wryworm, intrigued with Hiccup's hand, sniffed it and making sure it was no threat to it, it allowed Hiccup to place his palm on it snout. The Wryworm closed its eyes and growled softly: taking in Hiccup's scent. Thus a bond was form immediately.

Hiccup smiled with relief. 'That was easy.'

'Can I try?'

Hiccup looked at Merida. 'Sure.' He beckoned Merida to come to his side. Merida stood up and carefully made her way to Hiccup: now facing the Wryworm. 'Just relax and hold your hand out like I did.' Hiccup gently told Merida who held her hand out. 'Don't be afraid, he can sense it. Just gently placed your hand on his snout and let him and you bond.'

Merida nodded and did as Hiccup said: putting her hand onto the Wryworm's snout. Like Hiccup, the Wryworm closed its eyes as it pressed its snout into Merida's hand. Merida, afraid at first, now warmed into it: rubbing the Wryworm's rock skinned snout and even scratched behind its ears. Then the Wryworm rolled onto its back, exposing its belly, and continued to roll into the mud as Merida continued to scratch its ears: panting like a dog.

Merida giggled. 'It's like a puppy!' she crooned as she now scratched its belly happily: the Wryworm rolling on its back more.

Hiccup chuckled. 'Now you know why I compared Toothless to a dog.' Then he frowned. 'Now how are we going to convince your father to keep this puppy?'

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Fergus was frowning as he looked at his daughter and nephew. 'I'm not too sure about this...'

Hiccup, Merida, Toothless, Angus and the Wryworm came back to Dunbroch still covered in mud as the last fire caused by the Wryworm was extinguished. On their return, Fergus and Elinor first expressed relief on their safety and congratulating them for preventing further damage on Dunbroch. Now Fergus was skeptical about Merida's declaration of keeping the Wryworm as a pet.

Elinor shared her husband's feelings. 'Merida, it's already bad enough that we have to appease the farmers with sheep from our own flock. If we keep the Wryworm stays here, we have to feed it our sheep or it may steal the farmers' sheep...'

'Please mom.' Merida begged. 'I promise it will be good. Besides, Muddee here doesn't have to eat lamb only.'

Hiccup and Toothless looked at her and then at the Wryworm. 'You thought of a name already?' Hiccup asked in surprise. 'That was fast.' At Merida's shrug, Hiccup then turned to Fergus and Elinor. 'Actually uncle Fergus, boulder-class dragons like the... I mean Mundee here prefer eating fish or rocks so there's no fear of stolen sheep.'

'Hear that dad?' Merida interjected before Hiccup could say more. 'I'll train Muddee not to touch any of the livestocks here.'

'But that could take weeks, even months!' Fergus protested. 'And besides, you're not a dragon trainer. Hiccup is.'

'Can't you take... Muddee back with you to Berk?' Elinor asked Hiccup.

Hiccup frowned. 'I could but I rather not. Dragons are more comfortable and happier in their natural environment and I don't think Mundee will be able to stand the cold on Berk.'

'And if you do take him to Berk.' Merida rounded on Hiccup. 'I will never forgive you!'

Before Hiccup could say anything, a loud voice interrupted them. 'Hello there warriors of Dunbroch! How happy I am to see you all so well! Come, I have wares to sell and tales to yarn!'

Hiccup turns to the voice and his eyes almost popped out in disbelief. 'Trader Johann?'

Trader Johann's eyes widened. 'Master Hiccup? What in Valhalla are you doing here?'

'I was paying my relatives a visit.' Hiccup said as he grasped Johann by the arm. He saw his ship docked by the pier where it was already swarming with people. 'I didn't know you trade in Dunbroch.'

'It's where I get most of the weapons and the ale from.' Johann said. 'Didn't your uncle told you that your devices are popular here?'

'I didn't know that...' Hiccup murmured. Then something came into his mind. 'Johann, after Dunbroch, is your next stop Berk?'

'Yes it is.' Johann answered. 'I will be leaving as soon I'm done here.'

'Then can you deliver an item and a letter to my father?' Hiccup asked and when Johann nodded, he turned back to Fergus and Elinor. 'Uncle, aunt, is it all right if me and Toothless could stay in Dunbroch for a while?'

'Why of course lad!' Fergus beamed. 'But I thought you were going back to Berk once you got the Mountain Ash.'

'I can send the Mountain Ash to Berk through Trader Johann along with a letter. I thought I stay here and help your daughter train Muddee as well as training her to be Dunbroch first dragon trainer.'

Merida gasped excitedly. 'You really do that?'

'Sure.' Hiccup smiled. 'What are cousins for?'

*

In the blue sky of the highlands, two dark figures with wings zoomed through the clouds: going under trees and flying through castles ruins. The figures raced through the spires where the Fire Falls was, the darker creature passing through it first, before zooming downwards and landing near to a river. Landing right next to it was a

creature with dark brown scales and resemble a worm.

Merida jumped off Muddee and patted him on the head, making the dragon purred. 'He has increased in speed.'

'He sure has.' Hiccup agreed as he climbed down from Toothless. 'Muddee has an experienced rider for a dragon trainer and you're a fast learner Merida. Keep it up and we will turn you in an official dragon rider in no time.'

Merida beamed. 'Well... Most of the credit must go to you. You did mentor me for the past month.'

A month after taming the Wryworm, Merida had spent long hours with Hiccup and Toothless, learning on how to train dragons. She had to learn how to take care of Muddee, what his natural diet was, and what is his strength and weaknesses. The riding experience she shared with Angus was now used with Muddee, allowing her to stay on Muddee's back longer on her first attempt before she was bucked off into a mud pit. Then after Toothless' wound was completely healed and once Merida was used to riding Muddee with a saddle, Hiccup taught Merida flying manoeuvres and tips on how to fly. Merida enjoyed being in the air with Muddee and the more time they spent together, their bond improved a lot. Merida even discovered that Wryworms were partial towards cider. So Merida will feed Muddee a small cup of cider once a week or on special occasions.

Hiccup scratched the back of his head modestly. 'I think that's enough training for the day. Mind skewering some fish for lunch?'

Merida grinned and unslung her bow. 'With pleasure.'

She nocked an arrow and drew her bow, releasing it. The arrow flew into the river and impaled a salmon to the river bed. In a consecutive pattern, Merida released more arrows until half a dozen or so salmon were shot. While that was happening, Hiccup collected firewood and piled them up. Once he was done, Toothless spat out a spark that immediately ignited a small fire. Merida slung her bow back and waded into the water, pulling out the salmon she has skewered with her arrows.

After gathering her prize, Merida tossed a fish towards Toothless who snapped it in mid-air before feeding one to Muddee. Muddee happily ate the fish and licked Merida's hand. Merida giggled and gave him another fish before heading to the fire. She sat next to Hiccup and gave him a piece of fish, putting the remaining two close to the fire. Hiccup thanks her and tossed it towards Toothless, who merely opened his jaws and let the salmon fall into his mouth. Then Toothless clamped his mouth shut and started chewing, savoring the salmon.

Hiccup and Merida sat close to the fire, talking while they wait for their lunch to be cook. Hiccup will always compliment or remark on Merida's flying skills and her desire to become a dragon trainer, hoping his advice will help improve Merida abilities in taking care of Muddee. Merida in turn will ask questions on dragon training and other characteristics of boulder-class dragons, taking in every word Hiccup had to offer. Sometimes Hiccup will draw out sketches of Muddee and write down notes to the dragon's personality. Merida will

look in awe at Hiccup's drawings.

Normally their conversation were restricted to dragon training and up keeping but the more they spent together, the more their conversation became more personal. Merida will talk about her family and her life in Dunbroch while Hiccup will share his own life back on Berk as the leader of the dragon riders and the expectations as heir of the chieftain. Hiccup found Merida outspoken, funny and always say what was on her mind while Merida found Hiccup humorous sophisticated and clever. Today Merida was telling him about her suitors.

'They were all good lads but the one I'm looking for.' Merida finished. 'I told their fathers to let them follow their hearts and they did. I was able to escape from three arranged marriage but that Wee Dingwall has a thing for me. He was trying to kiss me on the hand before he and the Dingwall clan left.'

'That was amazing Merida.' Hiccup said. 'I never thought Aunt Elinor was capable to...'

'Marry me off to some stranger just to establish an alliance between our clans.' Merida finished off Hiccup's sentence. 'Yes, she was so... Firm then but now she changed for the better.'

'I was almost into an arranged marriage myself.' Hiccup shared.

Merida's eyes widened. 'Your dad forced you?'

'Not exactly.' Hiccup admitted bashfully. 'More like a childhood friend imposing herself to marry me.' Then Hiccup told Merida about Camicazi's marriage proposal, how Astrid manage to earn Camicazi's friendship and his double marriage when he come at age. 'So that how it is. At the age of twenty, I'm going to marry two girls. Girls that will kill me if I say no.'

'Ouch!' Merida literally flinched. 'These two lassies must be something for you to say yes to both of them.'

'They are.' Hiccup nodded without hesitating. 'Astrid is strong, brave, smart, outspoken and is always there when I need her. If it doesn't involve a competition. I love from a very young age. Camicazi and I had been friends when we were just kids and she taught me history and military tactics. She can be a bit ditzy but she is cunning, talented and has great leadership.' He smiled at Merida. 'You know Merida, you reminded of both of them. Well, actually you're simile to Astrid.'

Merida blushed and smiled. 'You think so? Wow, that's a first time a boy said something like that to me...'

She and Hiccup stared into the fire, awkwardness filling them. The only things that they could hear were their dragons grunting, the birds, the flowing of the river and the crackling of the fire. Finally, Merida broke the silence.

'So your laws on polygamy allows you to marry two women?'

Despite being startled at the question, Hiccup replied. 'Well... According to Gothi, our village elder, a Viking can take up to three

wives with the consent of the first two.' Hiccup chuckled. 'If that happened, my dad will be thrilled to have more grandchildren running circles around him.'

Merida smiled and turned back to the fire, staring thoughtfully into it. Hiccup looked at her and wondered why she posed that question. Then he dismissed it as curiosity and checked on the fish. They were brownish and their skin looked crispy, still sizzling hotly.

'Lunch is ready. Let's eat and see if we can get that manoeuvre right.'

Merida nodded and thanked Hiccup when he handed her the salmon. They ate in silence, each in their own world.

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Hiccup hugged Elinor tightly. 'Thank you for having me here Aunt Elinor.'

Elinor smiled and let go of Hiccup. 'Anytime dear nephew. We had an enjoyable time with you as our guest.'

Hiccup turned to Fergus who immediately scooped him up in a bearhug, crushing him. 'It's so good to have you here laddie! Come and drop by anytime!'

'Uncle... Fergus!' Hiccup gasped. 'Too... Tight...'

Fergus grinned and put down Hiccup. Hiccup rubbed his sore ribs and turned to where the triplets were riding and patting on Toothless. Toothless growled as one of the triplet sat on his head. Hiccup chuckled and lifted the triplet off Toothless, setting him onto his feet.

'You already have a dragon to play around with.' Hiccup told them. 'If your sister let you guys play with him.'

The triplets sniggered as Hiccup turned towards Merida who immediately hugged him, her face buried in his chest. Hiccup could feel her long ginger hair brushing against his face as they embraced tightly. Too tightly.

'I will miss you and your jokes.' she said as she pulled away from him. 'Oh, and Toothless too.'

Hiccup smiled as Toothless snorted. 'And I will miss you too. You're going to be a great dragon trainer and I'm going to miss your company. Remember your training and take good care of Muddee.'

'I will.' Merida promised as she stood next to Muddee. 'You and Toothless have a safe trip back to Berk alright?'

Hiccup smiled and nodded. He climbed onto Toothless' back. 'Ready to go home bud?'

Toothless growled and opened his wings wide opened. He sprinted onto his feet and took up, shooting up into the air. As they flew upwards, Hiccup turned his head sideway and waved farewell to his relatives. Merida, Fergus, Elinor, the triplets as well as some residents of

Dunbroch waved farewell to Hiccup and Toothless until they disappeared into the clouds.

*

'Everyone!' a Viking shouted. 'Hiccup and Toothless are back!'

The village of Berk stopped what they were doing as they can see Hiccup and Toothess were fast approaching them. Toothless circled above the village before landing right in the middle, the villagers had to make a clearing for them. Hiccup jumped off Toothless and smiled as he took in what was in front of him: people wearing horned helmets, wooden houses, snowy mountains and the smell of sea water.

He was home.

His smile brightened as Stoick the Vast pushed himself through the crowd, with Gobber the Belch following behind him, and rushed towards him. Hiccup opened his arms and grimaced as he readied himself for another crushing bear hug. Like Fergus, Stoick scooped Hiccup into a bearhug and swung around in circles, embracing him tightly.

'Welcome back son!' he cried. 'You had quite an adventure!'

'Dad!' Hiccup breathed. 'Can'tâ€¦ Breatheâ€¦'

Stoick put him down and smiled. 'I've been meaning to tell you about our relatives in Dunbroch but looks like you have acquitted yourself to them already. How was Fergus and his family? I heard that Merida got herself a dragon of sort.'

'It's a long story which I would be happy to share.' Hiccup said. 'So what did Gothi do with the Mountain Ash?'

The smile on Stoick's face fell and he growled. 'I don't want to talk about it.'

Hiccup looked puzzled and he turned to Gobber. 'What happened?'

'Oh.' Gobber grinned while waving his hook. 'Gothi just used the Mountain Ash to cure your father'sâ€¦'

Then the veteran Viking leaned closer towards Hiccup and whispered into his ears. When he was done, there was a look of disgust on Hiccup's face. 'Rightâ€¦ Not worth mentioning againâ€¦ I think I just lost my lunchâ€¦'

'Hiccup!' a voice cried out and Hiccup turned just in time to see Astrid Hofferson pushing through the crowd and stepped into the clearing. They both stared at each other and silence filled the crowd, wondering what will happened.

'Astridâ€¦' Hiccup began but Astrid strode forward and punched him hard in the arm. Hiccup flinched and hold his arm in pain.

'That's for being gone for so long and leaving me with the twins and Snoutlout.' She told him and before Hiccup could protest, she then grabbed his front and pulled him towards her: kissing him deeply on

the lips. The crowd gave an "oooohhhhh" as Astrid pulled away from the kiss. 'And that's for coming back to us safe and sound.'

Hiccup smiled. 'I knew I should be getting this warm welcome from you. It's good to be back.'

Stoick laughed loudly and clapped his hands heavily on Hiccup's shoulders. 'Come on everybody, let's head to the Great Hall to celebrate my son's return!'

Everybody cheered and followed Stoick to the Great Hall. Hiccup and Astrid smiled at each other before Astrid grabbed him by the wrist and pulled him towards the Great Hall.

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'All right! There we go Angus!' Merida said as she brushed Angus fur with a brush. Angus whinnied happily as the thistles scratched his body. Once Merida was done brushing Angus, she filled his tray with water and stack up hay. Next, she went to the stable next to Angus' where Muddee was sleeping in a pool of mud.

'Get some rest Muddee.' Merida said affectionately as she patted the dragon on the head. 'Tomorrow you, Angus and I are going for a trip to the Fire Falls.'

Muddee snorted happily before snoring softly. Merida smiled and headed back inside the castle. She made her way up the stairs, walking pass her father's stuffed bears and hung weapons, until she reached her room. She put her hand on the door handle but instead of entering her room, she stared at it thoughtfully.

She stood there for a full minute before letting go of the handle and headed to another direction. Merida stopped in front of a massive door and knocked on it.

'Come in.'

Merida opened the door that led to her parents' bedroom. Elinor was sitting in front of the fire sewing an embroidery while Fergus was sharpening his sword.

'Mom, dad.' Merida began as she closed the door behind her. 'Can I talk to you for a minute?'

'Sure lass.' Fergus said as he put down his sword.

Elinor stopped sewing and looked at her daughter. 'Is something wrong dear?'

Merida shook her head and asked. 'What does our laws says about polygamyâ€¦ And errâ€¦ Intermarriage?'

End
file.